AMENDED CLAIMS

[received by the International Bureau on 23 January 2004 (23.01.04); original claims 1-17 replaced by new claims 1-21 (3 pages)]

+ STATEMENT

1. Drive belt (10) (10) for rotational transfer of a force between two or more drive wheels, provided with a tensile means (11) for transferring the force to be transferred between said drive wheels, in which the tensile means (11) is incorporated radially centred in the belt, which belt is provided with transverse elements (13) disposed on to at least one radial side of said tensile means (11), effecting a contact between the belt (10) and a drive wheel, and in which elastically deformable material (12) is included between the tensile means (11) and the transverse elements (13), characterised in that the tensile means (11) is composed of a flat strip or sheet like tensile means of minimal thickness, and of a width at least substantially corresponding to the width of a transverse means (13).

2. Belt (10) according to claim 1 characterised in that the tensile means (11) is included in the belt (10) with overlapping end parts (20).

3. Belt (10) according to claim 1 or 2, characterised in that the width of which strap like means (11) substantially corresponding to the width of the transverse means (13) at the level of the tensile means in the belt (10), and in that the strap like means (11) is incorporated in the belt (10) with radial overlapping end parts (20).

4. Belt (10) according to claim 1, 2 or 3, characterised in that the tensile element (11) is composed of a metal material, preferably spring type metal or of a UD-material.

5. Belt (10) according to any of the preceding claims, characterised in that the tensile means (11) comprises an elastically deformable, rubber like material (12), coated on to the tensile element (11), such that a small layer of material (12) is located in a contact between the tensile element (11) and a transverse element (13).

6. Belt (10) according to any of the preceding claims, characterised in that the tensile element (11) is of a thickness less than 0.5 mm, preferably less than 0,25 mm, in particular 0,1 mm or less.

7. Belt (10) according to any of the preceding claims, characterised in that the width of the tensile means (11, 12) at least substantially corresponds to the width of a transverse element (13), the width of the transverse element (13) slightly extending beyond the tensile means (11, 12).

8. Belt (10) according to any of the preceding claims, characterised in that the element (13) thickness is less than 0,20 times the smallest running radius, in particular less than 1,5 mm.

9. Belt (10) according to the preceding claim characterised in that the elastical deformable material (12) has an elasticity modulus more than 6 times lower than that of the transverse elements (13).

10. Belt (10) according to any of the preceding claims, characterised in that the mutual distance of the transverse elements (13) corresponds to the thickness of the elements (13).

11. Belt (10) according to any of the preceding claims, characterised in that the maximum height of the intermediate body (12) corresponds to the mutual distance between the elements (13).

12. Belt (10) according to any of the preceding claims, characterised in that the intermediate body (12) is provided over at least a substantial part of the width of the tensile means (11).

13. Belt (10) according to any of the preceding claims, characterised in that the maximum height of the intermediate body (12) is less than half of the transverse element height taken from the relevant radial side of the tensile means (11, 12) to the relevant radial end of the transverse means.

14. Belt (10) according to any of the preceding claims, characterised in that the intermediate body (12) is adhesively attached to the relevant radial face of the tensile means (11).

15. Belt (10) according to any of the preceding claims, characterised in that the maximum element (13) height is less than half of the nominal element width.

16. Belt (10) according to any of the preceding claims, characterised in that the transverse element (13) is composed of acetals (POM) or high tech thermoplastic or themoset engineering plastics.

17. Belt (10) according to any of the preceding claims, characterised in that the tensile means (11) is composed of a single part which is curled to an endless element.

18. Endless pull belt, in particular according to any of the preceding claims, more in particular V-belt for application in a transmission with a V-wedged pulley, more in particular a variable width pulley, comprising a tensile means (11, 12) and transverse

elements (13) comprising a V-shape with lateral pulley contacting faces, an elastically deformable spacing means (12) being located longitudinally between said elements (13), characterised in that tensile means (11, 12) comprises a flat, strip like tensile element (11) of a minimal thickness TT, i.e. 0,05 mm >= TT <= 0,25 mm, extending over a width WT, substantially matching the nominal width WB of an element (13), i.e. 0.5 * WB >= WT <= 0.9 * WB, the tensile element (11) being located centred over the radial height of a transverse element (13) in the belt (10), the tensile element (11) further being composed like a single body, preferably a strip composed of metal material or of a synthetic UD-material.

19. Belt according to any of the preceding claims, characterised in that an opening (15) in the transverse element for receiving the tensile element (11) comprises a funnel like shaped entry.

20. Belt according to any of the preceding claims, characterised in that an opening (15) in the transverse element for receiving the tensile element (11) is located centralised in the element (13).

21. Belt according to any of the preceding claims, characterised in that the transverse element (13) comprises distance bosses (16).